

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No.09/995,097

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-4.(canceled)

5. (currently amended): ~~The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2;~~

For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:
a brake; and
a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the
brake;

whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the
user to maintain balance;

wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least one wheel of the skate when actuated.

6. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled to the lifter.

7.-8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the brake shoe comprises fiber-reinforced elastomer.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the elastomer comprises urethane.

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No.09/995,097

12. (currently amended): The skate braking mechanism according to claim [[2,]] 2, comprising a return spring counteracting an upward pressing motion of the toe.

13.(currently amended): ~~The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2;~~

For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:
a brake; and

a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the
brake;

whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the
user to maintain balance;

wherein the lifter is positioned above the toe forward of metatarsals of the foot of the user.

14. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 13, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.

15. (previously presented): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 14, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between a metatarsal and a phalanx of the toe.

16. (canceled)

Amendment AFR, GAU3618, Ser.No.09/995,097

17. (currently amended): ~~The skate braking mechanism according to claim 2,~~

For a user having a toe and standing on a skate, a skate braking mechanism comprising:
a brake; and

a lifter connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the
brake;

whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the
user to maintain balance;

wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe that is pivoted to rotate about an axle of a first wheel, so as to bear against a second wheel.

18. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.

19. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 17, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.